



2012 MN Ag EXPO

Tentative Schedule of Events

Verizon Wireless Center
Mankato, MN



Sunday, January 22, 2012

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Soybean 50th Anniversary
Membership Reception

Monday, January 23, 2012

7:30am – 8:30am

Exhibitor Only Registration

8:30am – 5:00pm

Attendee Registration

9:00am – 5:00pm

Tradeshow

9:00am – 9:30am

VISIT TRADESHOW

9:30am – 10:30am

Speaker: **Bill Darrington** *(see page 2 for bio)*

10:30am – 11:00am

Refreshments in Tradeshow

11:00am – 12:00pm

VISIT TRADESHOW

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Corn Awards Luncheon

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Featured Speaker: **Trent Loos** *(see page 3 for bio)*

2:30pm – 3:30pm

VISIT TRADESHOW

2:00pm – 5:00pm

MCGA Silent Auction

2:30pm – 3:00pm

Variety Plot Meeting

3:00pm – 3:30pm

MCGA Recruiter Meeting

3:30pm – 4:15pm

Speaker: **Michael Peterson** *(see page 4 for bio)*

4:15pm – 5:00pm

Reception

5:00pm – 6:30pm

MCGA Auction

6:30pm – 9:00pm

MSGA Awards Banquet

9:00pm – 11:00pm

Hospitality & Entertainment

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

7:00am – 8:00am

MCGA/MSGA Breakfast

8:30am – 10:30am

MSGA Delegate Session

10:30am – 11:45am

MSGA Annual Meeting

11:45am – 12:45pm

MCGA/MSGA Lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm

MCGA Delegate Session

2:45pm – 4:00pm

MCGA Annual Meeting

BILL DARRINGTON

Bill Darrington, of Persia, Iowa is the owner/operator of a 2,500 acre, corn and soybean farm in the hills of western Iowa. Bill along with his father, have been long time users of biological farming practices coupled with no til and the vertical tillage system. He has also taught this system along with system pioneer Ray Rawson for many years.

Bill's farm is not organic but he considers himself to be a part of the *biologically aware* approach to conventional agriculture. This approach involves careful selection of all tillage practices, soil amendments, soil and foliar fertilizers and the use of non toxic alternatives for insect and fungal control products. Every decision we make for the farm we evaluate the biological impact and search for the best options.

Bill is also half owner of a company called Greenspire Global Inc. which manufactures and markets Safestrike, which is a Neem based, NOP organic approved product, as well a Procidic, an organic fungicidal product manufactured in Spain.

TRENT LOOS

Connecting rural and urban America by sharing the positive story of production agriculture has been the mission of Trent Loos since he walked into a radio station in Spearfish, SD in 2000 and asked to do his own program. That dream of this sixth generation United States farmer, often touted as an *agricultural activist*, came true on January 8, 2001 when "*Loos Tales*" aired on radio station KMZU in Missouri. Today, 4 million listeners on nearly 100 radio stations in 19 states hear the show every day, along with many who listen online worldwide. In addition to "*Loos Tales*", Trent now hosts and produces a daily, one-hour radio program entitled "*Rural Route*," a 1-minute "*Illinois Truth Be Told*" program, as well as "*Loos Trails and Tales*", "*Dakota Trails and Tales*" and "*Colorado Trails and Tales*," which are available at www.FacesofAg.com.

Trent travels the country to unearth stories about the people involved in the many different facets of production agriculture and to spread the good word about food producers in the United States. In 2010, Trent traveled to 39 different states to share his passion for an industry he truly believes in and to encourage producers to stand up and proudly tell consumers about life and their operations. In 2008, Trent was recognized by West Quest as the "***Voice of Rural America.***"

Written *Loos Tales* columns are printed weekly in the [High Plains Journal](#) and reprinted in countless other publications. He has led hundreds of training workshops to help fellow agriculturalists learn to interact with the media, meet consumers in a grocery store and open up their operations to visitors.

Trent was raised on a diversified farm near Quincy, IL and got his start in swine production with a runt pig at the age of five. He expanded his operation, alongside his father, to a purebred seedstock company that supplied boars and gilts to producers across the country. Along the way, he earned an American Farmer Degree in FFA and won numerous awards at state and national swine shows. In 1990, Trent expanded his operation to include purebred Limousin, Simmental and Angus cattle. Horses were added to the mix in the late '90's and now meat goats are a part of the ranching equation. The Loos family got back in the pig business in 2009 by keeping several gilts from a 4-H project and gradually building a small herd.

Faces of Agriculture, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2003 by Trent, Kelli and a small group of livestock producers who were motivated to convince consumers that the abundant supply of safe, healthy food eaten in this country is produced by real people on farms, not created in "factories". Trent and his wife Kelli enjoy living on the ranch in central Nebraska with their daughters, Libbi, Lindsi and Landri. Their adventures as a family include traveling, training and riding horses, youth sports, 4-H and archery.

MICHAEL PETERSON

With nine tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, six since December 2010, Michael Peterson is the 2008 recipient of the distinguished Bob Hope "Spirit Of Hope" award for his service to the nation and the servicemen and women of the Armed Forces. He is loved for such million selling country music chart toppers as "Drink, Swear, Steal & Lie" and "From Here To Eternity. This multiple Grammy and CMA award nominee has moved audiences all over the globe for over a decade.

Recognized by Billboard Magazine as Country music's top selling new male artist and top new airplay artist in 1997 -1998, he burst on the scene with 5 consecutive Billboard and R & R top 20 hits between 1997 and 2001 including three top five singles and three number one music videos. His wedding standard "From Here To Eternity" was recently chosen as one of G.A.C's top 100 greatest love song videos of all time.

A proven hit songwriter with multiple #1 songs in gospel and country, both in the U.S and Europe, Michael's songs have been recorded by Grammy winning superstars like Travis Tritt, Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles), The Classic Imperials, Ty Herndon, John Berry and Deniece "Let's Hear It For The Boy" Williams.

From 2007-2011 Michael continues to bring the "TAG YOU'RE IT!" High School Assembly program sponsored by The American Legion and the U.S. Army, to more than 150,000 students. The success and powerful messaging created for young people has been a goldmine of Social-Emotional learning for Educators, school administrators and students and is now rated as one of the top ten high school Assembly programs in the nation.

The national footprint and impact of the TAG YOU'RE IT! was recently reflected in Michael's selection as the sole recipient of the American Legion's 2011 National Education Award. The award, whose previous recipients include former First Ladies Barbara and Laura Bush, Tom Brokaw, Former US Secretary of Education William Bennett, Fred Rogers (Mr Rogers) and Bob Keeshan (Captain Kangaroo) is presented to groups or individuals that have significantly and positively enhanced education in the United States.